GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:247
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
TOOTH PROBLEM AMONG CHILDREN
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned `about 80% of the children facing tooth problems` appearing in the `Dainik Jagaran` dated February 13, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to increase the number of dentists and to ensure the dental care of children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 247 FOR 20.3.2002

Yes, Sir. Though no nationwide survey has been conducted to assess the prevalence of Dental caries in Children, some published studies indicate the prevalence amongst children to be 60 - 80%.

A National Oral Health Care Programme has been launched as a part of the National Health Policy for prevention of Oro-dental Problems. This programme is a primary preventive programme and the main motto is to generate awareness about Oral Health amongst masses including children. All India Institute of Medical Sciences is currently undertaking this programme on a pilot basis in Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and North-Eastern States.The programme involves training of Dental Surgeons at district level, who in turn train health workers, school teachers and the community. To make available more dentists, during the last three years, 35 Dental colleges have been permitted in the private sector with a total intake capacity of 2500 B.D.S. students.